

**ARIZONA GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT
HABITAT PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE
HABITAT ENHANCEMENT AND WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT PROPOSAL**

Game Branch / HPC Project Number: 14-526

PROJECT INFORMATION

Project Title: Pinaleno Bear Proof Receptacles

Region and Game Management Unit: Region 5/ Unit 31

Local Habitat Partnership Committee (LHPC):
• Safford

Was the project presented to the LHPC?
YES[X] NO[]

Has this project been submitted in previous years? YES[X] NO[]

If Yes, was it funded? YES[X] NO[] → **Funded HPC Project #(s):** 10-508

Project Type: Bear Proof Facilities

Brief Project Summary: Provide ADA compliant bear-proof garbage receptacles at 3 campgrounds on Mt. Graham including Cunningham, Riggs and Arcadia campgrounds to reduce bear/human confrontations.

Big Game Wildlife Species to Benefit:

Implementation Schedule (Month/Day/Year):

Project Start Date: May, 2015

Project End Date: Nov., 2015

Environmental Compliance:

NEPA Completed: Yes[] No[] N/A[X]

Projected Completion Date: _____

State Historic Preservation Office - Archaeological Clearance:

Yes[] No[] N/A[X]

Projected Completion Date: _____

Arizona Game and Fish Department EA Checklist: N/A[X]

To be Completed by: _____

Projected Completion Date: _____

PROJECT FUNDING

Special Big Game License Tag Funds Requested: \$ 5,140

Cost Share or Matching Funds: \$ 2,925

Total Project Costs: \$ 8,065

PARTICIPANT INFORMATION

Applicant (please print):
Kent C. Ellett

Address:
711 S. 14th Ave., Suite D
Safford, AZ 85546

E-mail:
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Telephone: 928-348-1974

Date: 8/28/2014

AGFD Contact and Phone No. (If applicant is not AGFD personnel): Devin Skinner, Unit 31 Wildlife Mgr.

Project has been coordinated with: Local Safford HPC and Southeastern Arizona Sportsmen's Club.

NEED STATEMENT – PROBLEM ANALYSIS:

We have installed several bear-proof food lockers over the past few years and it has made a difference. Although the number of bears getting into cabins and coolers at campgrounds has decreased there are still some problems and additional bear-proof receptacles would help reduce the problem.

PROJECT OBJECTIVES:

The objective of this project is to provide the public with facilities that would prevent bears from accessing their food and trash in locations that are prone to bear encounters.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION AND STRATEGIES:

Install 4 bear-proof garbage receptacles at 3 popular campgrounds on Mt. Graham. The receptacles would be purchased using HPC funds. The Forest Service would oversee the installation by either the Youth Conservation Corp crew or Eagle Scout project volunteers.

PROJECT LOCATION:

In Unit 31 in Graham County, Safford Ranger District in the SE part of the State. Cunningham, Riggs Flat Lake and Arcadia Campgrounds.

LAND OWNERSHIP AT THE PROJECT SITE(S):

(if the project area is private property, please state specifically and provide the landowner's name)

- Forest System lands.

IF PRIVATE PROPERTY, IS THERE A COOPERATIVE BIG GAME STEWARDSHIP or LANDOWNER AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE LANDOWNER AND THE DEPARTMENT?
YES[] NO[] N/A[]

HABITAT DESCRIPTION:

Arcadia CG is at the ponderosa pine/mix conifer ecotone transition area at 6,650 ft. elev.
Riggs Lake and Cunningham CGs are in mixed conifer at 8,700 & 9,000 ft. elev.

ITEMIZED USE OF FUNDS:

Special Big Game License Tag Funds

4 ADA Compliant bear-proof trash receptacles at \$1,285 each = \$5,140.

Cost Share or Matching Funds (for volunteer labor rates please refer to the worksheet below)

3 days of YCC crew and crew leaders at \$950/day = \$2,850.

Cement, j-bolts, washers, nuts, 2X4 forms = \$75.

If Boy Scout volunteers are used this would be good for 2 Eagle Scout projects which usually have approx. 100 hours per project. 200 hours at \$14.14/hr = \$2,828 which is very close to YCC costs.

In past years we've also purchased receptacles as a match but can't commit to it at the time of this submission but hopefully will be able to order a couple.

LIST COOPERATORS AND DESCRIBE POTENTIAL PARTICIPATION:

Youth Conservation Corp as part of our Children's Forest program.

Boy Scouts of America and local volunteers that would assist with Eagle Scout Leadership projects.

WOULD IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS PROJECT ASSIST IN PROVIDING, MAINTAINING, OR FACILITATING RECREATIONAL ACCESS?

YES[] NO[X] N/A[]

Not access but would improve the recreational experience.

PROJECT MONITORING PLAN:

We monitor calls and input from the public on bear encounters. Also, our campground hosts monitor bear activities in the campgrounds.

PROJECT MAINTENANCE:

The bear-proof containers will become property of the US Government and thus the Forest Service will be responsible for their maintenance.

PROJECT COMPLETION REPORT TO BE FILED BY:

Safford Ranger District, Coronado NF.

WATER DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS (*please use the worksheet below*):

NA

TREE CLEARING/REMOVAL PROJECTS (*please use the worksheet below*):

NA